Amended Patent claims

1. (original) A method of coding information on articles, characterized in that for coding the information a fluorescent dyestuff is used.

2. (original) The method defined in claim 1, characterized in that a fluorescent dyestuff ifs used which fluoresces within 1 to 200 nanoseconds following excitation with energy-rich light.

3. (currently amended) The method according to ~~one of claims 1 to 2~~ claim 1, characterized in that the fluorescent dyestuff used emits light in the wavelength range of 300 to 1800 nm.

4. (currently amended) The method according to ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, characterized in that the following compounds, pyrene compounds, uranine, quinine, flurorescein, rhodamine, acridine orange, tetracycline, porphyrine is used.

5. (currently amended) The method according to ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, characterized in that different fluorescent dyestuffs are used simultaneously.

6. (currently amended) The method according to ~~one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, characterized in that with the simultaneous use of different fluorescent dyestuffs, these differ only slightly in absorption characteristics but differ significantly in emission characteristics.

7. (currently amended) The method according to ~~one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, characterized in that black-white bar codes and fluorescent dyestuffs are used for the coding of information.

8. (currently amended) The method according to ~~one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, characterized in that the fluorescent dyestuff is applied in a diffused pattern to the article.

9. (currently amended) The method according to ~~one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, characterized in that the fluorescent dyestuff is applied in the form of a bar code to the article.

10. (currently amended) The method according to ~~one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, characterized in that the fluorescent dyestuff is applied by a printing process to the article.

11. (currently amended) The method according to ~~one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, characterized in that a fluorescent dyestuff is used which does not fluoresce in the spectral range of 400 to 700 nm.

12. (currently amended) The method according to ~~one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1, characterized in that the fluorescent dyestuff is introduced during the manufacturing process of the material of the article and characterizes it.

13. (original) A device for evaluating coded information which as been coded by means of a fluorescent dyestuff, comprising at least one light source and at least one detector, characterized in that the light source and detector are arranged in a reading head or a detection chamber and the device includes means for controlling the light emission.

14. (original) The device according to claim 13, characterized in that the detection chamber is shielded against foreign light.

15. (currently amended) The device according to ~~claims 13 to 14~~ claim 13, characterized in that the light sources and detectors are distributed over the interior of the detection chamber.

16. (currently amended) The device according to ~~claims 13 to 15~~ claim 13, characterized in that the inner surfaces of the detection chamber are coated with reflecting color or are fabricated from reflected material.

17. (original) The device according to claim 13, characterized in that the reading head is equipped with light guides for the emitted light and light guides for the fluorescent light.

18. (currently amended) The device according to ~~claims 13 and 17~~ claim 13, characterized in that the reading head has a rubber collar.

19. (currently amended) The device according to ~~claims 13 to 18~~ claim 13, characterized in that the light pulses are synchronized in time with the detector.

20. (currently amended) The device according to ~~claims 13 to 19~~ claim 13, characterized in that the light sources have a spectrum between 200 to 1800 nm.

21. (currently amended) The method of evaluating coded information which has been coded by means of a method according to ~~claims 1 to 13~~ claim 1~~characterized in that a device according to claims 13 to 20 is used~~.

This preliminary amendment is submitted to provide the cross reference of the present US national phase of PCT application PCT/DE2003/003353 to the international application and to eliminate multiple dependencies in the claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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